



Jimmy Carter Library & Museum News Release

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Carter Library Hosts Award-Winning Author of Mariel Boatlift Memoir

WABE's "Between the Lines" to record interview with "Finding Mañana" author Mirta Ojito

Atlanta, GA- The Jimmy Carter Presidential Library will host award-winning New York Times reporter and author Mirta Ojito on Friday, September 16th at 8 p.m. Ms. Ojito will discuss her highly acclaimed book "Finding Mañana: A Memoir of a Cuban Exodus" during the free lecture and book-signing.

WABE's Valerie Jackson will interview Ms. Ojito about her childhood in Havana and her flight to freedom during the 1980 Mariel boatlift. The interview will be recorded for broadcast on Jackson's popular "Between the Lines" program on WABE.

Ms. Ojito was born in Cuba and was among the 125,000 refugees who made the chaotic trip to South Florida as part of what became known as the Mariel boatlift. It was so-named because many of the refugees left from Cuba's Mariel Harbor.

The highly publicized five-month-long exodus dominated American politics for much of 1980 and changed the Cuban émigré community forever. Ms. Ojito's description of her childhood in Cuba and wrenching departure to the United States has been widely-praised.

The **New York Times** said "It's impossible not to admire the boldness, the candor, the moral toughness of Ms. Ojito's writing."

The **Wall Street Journal** said "Ms. Ojito's book is filled with the anguish of separation and the tragedy of living under a merciless regime."

Mirta Ojito has been a newspaper reporter for more than 17 years. Her series of articles on life in Cuba was given the American Society of Newspaper Editor's Writing Award for foreign reporting and she shared a Pulitzer for articles on race in America.

Former Atlanta First Lady and WABE radio host Valerie Jackson will interview Ms. Ojito for an upcoming "Between the Lines" program. The weekly program, which airs on Thursdays and Saturdays, showcases some of today's most notable writers and thinkers. The Carter Library audience will be able to watch the show being recorded and then ask their own questions of Ms. Ojito and Ms. Jackson. Following the interview and question and answer period, Ms. Ojito will sign copies of her book.

The author interview and book signing is free and open to the public. Doors to the Carter Presidential Library Theater open at 7:30. The program begins at 8 p.m. There is limited seating and seating will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.

For more information, call 404-865-7101 or visit www.jimmycarterlibrary.org.

Editors Note: Images of Ms. Ojito and her book are available by contacting the Carter Library Public Affairs Office.